

IDAHO ELECTRICAL BOARD MEETING

Tuesday – July 29, 2008 – 10:00 A.M.

**Division of Building Safety
Shilo Inn Suites
702 West Appleway, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho**

NOTE: The following report is not intended to be a verbatim transcript of the discussions at the meeting, but is intended to record the significant features of those discussions.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Brown at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 29, 2008.

Board Members Present:

Tom Brown, Chairman
Kreg Davis
Al Frieze
Mark LaBolle
Troy Mortensen
Tim Phillips
Lee Riley
Bob Scott
Jeff Wheeler

DBS Staff Members:

Kelly Pearce, Administrator
Steve Keys, Deputy Administrator, Operations
Jeff Fitzloff, Electrical Bureau Chief
Kirk Weiskircher, Financial Specialist, Principal
Kay Christensen, Division Chief, Contracts & Admin.
Law Division, Attorney General's Office
Patrick J. Grace, Deputy Attorney General
Renee Bryant, Administrative Assistant 2
Terry Blessing, Consultation and Outreach Advisor
Tom Loudin, Electrical Inspector Supervisor

Kay Christensen introduced Patrick J. Grace as the Division's new full-time, in-house Deputy Attorney General.

◆ **Open Forum**

Electrical Contractor Requirements – Effective July 1, 2008, an applicant shall have at least one (1) full-time employee who holds a valid master electrician license.

Robert Pennell passed the Electrical Contractor exam in May; however did not submit the license fee and required documents prior to the rule change. Abiding by the rule, the Division was unable to issue Mr. Pennell his license.

Mr. Pennell beseeched upon the Board to reverse the Division's decision. Information and argument was given by both parties. The Administrator has the authority to issue licenses, and had issued a final Action letter denying Pennell's request. Therefore, the Board encouraged Mr. Pennell to submit a reconsideration request to Administrator Pearce explaining any extenuating circumstances surrounding his inability to submit the required fee and documentation by July 1, 2008.

◆ **Approval of the July 29, 2008 Agenda**

The scheduling of the 2009 meetings was added as item 7a under "Action" Agenda.

MOTION: Al Frieze moved to approve the Agenda with additions. Bob Scott seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Approval of the May 15, 2008 Board Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: Mark LaBolle made a motion to accept the Minutes as written. Jeff Wheeler seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Financial Report**

Kirk Weiskircher presented Electrical's Financial Report. Topics addressed were: Appropriation vs. Actual Costs, Revenue vs. Expenditure and Available Cash.

MOTION: Al Frieze made a motion to accept the Financial Report. Bob Scott seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Request for Administrative Appeals Hearing (If needed)**

No appeals.

◆ **Advertising (Proposed Rule)**

The new "Advertising" verbiage, incorporated into IDAPA 07.01.03.015.03 "Electrical Contracting Work Defined", was reviewed by the Board.

MOTION: Al Frieze made a motion to move forward with the rule change. Kreg Davis seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Registration/License Fees**

The Board reviewed the following proposed changes to Idaho Code 54-1007: Apprentice registration would be five (5) years/\$50.00, specialty apprentice registration would be three (3) years/\$20.00 and apprentices/specialty apprentices to have on-line access to their accounts.

MOTION: Al Frieze moved that the Board endorse the legislation, in principal. Tim Phillips seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Residential Permit Fees**

The proposed rule change modified the permit fee on a residential-single family dwelling over 4,500 square feet of living space to \$325.00 plus \$65.00 for each additional 1,000 square feet or portion thereof.

MOTION: Mark LaBolle made a motion to approve the proposed rule change as modified. Kreg Davis seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **2009 Meeting Dates**

Upon reviewing the 2009 dates, Bob Scott requested the July meeting be moved from the 30th to the 28th.

The 2009 Electrical Board meeting dates are as follows: February 26th, 9 a.m. (MST)–Meridian; May 14th, 9 a.m. (MDT)–Twin Falls; July 28th, 10 a.m. (PDT)–Post Falls and October 15th, 9 a.m. (MDT)–Meridian.

MOTION: Tim Phillips made a motion to accept the dates with the exception of moving the July date to the 28th and that the Board may need to adjust their dates for other Board meetings. Bob Scott seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Legality of Installing Signs Without a License**

The Division cannot pursue legal measures until a DBS representative observes a non-licensed electrician physically installing electrical signs or a citizen's complaint is filed with the Division stating they've witnessed the electrical installation.

◆ **Apprentice Competency Exams**

On the basis of a self-developed test, the Subcommittee met on July 18th at the Meridian DBS. Eastern Idaho Technical College (EITC) has volunteered one first-year apprenticeship class to partake in this pilot program. The exam will be 50 questions based off their curriculum and will be administered at the end of the school year.

It was suggested the Board consider extending the school's time requirements. Eastern Idaho Electrical JATC recently expanded their first and second year classes by 30 hours.

ACTION: The Board consented to the Subcommittee pursuing the pilot test; issuing the exam to an EITC first year apprenticeship class.

◆ **Changing Journeyman Exam Requirements**

Statistics show students graduating from a four-year program through a state school have a lower pass rate on their first attempt at the journeyman exam than students graduating from a five-year union program. A lengthy discussion ensued as to the reason behind the low pass rate.

Due to issues with the current testing agency, the Division is looking at bringing the test back inside DBS.

◆ **Schooling (Update)**

State schools were asked for the number of students completing their program but lacking the required hours in which to take and pass the journeyman exam. No statistics were provided as the schools do not track this information on a regular basis.

The Board expressed dissatisfaction with the state schools for their lack of involvement in finding a solution to this problem.

The State Board of Education has appointed Burton Waite as the Interim President of Eastern Idaho Technical College in Idaho Falls.

◆ **CEU Requirements**

The current continuing education requirements state in part that Journeymen and Master Electricians must complete at least 24 hours of continuing education instruction, with a minimum of 16 hours of code update, in every three (3) year period between updates of the National Electrical Code.

It was the consensus of the Board and industry that safety issues should be included as part of the eight (8) hours of industry related courses.

ACTION: This topic to be addressed at the October 16, 2008 Board meeting.

◆ **Bureau Chief's Report**

Through a PowerPoint Presentation, Jeff Fitzloff reviewed the ICC's Exam Summary, Journeyman First Exam Attempt and Notice of Violations/Civil Penalty Reports.

◆ **Legislative Report**

The rules on advertising by unlicensed contractors and permit fees on larger homes have been submitted and approved by DFM.

Prior to seeking the approval of the Governor and DFM, the Division to hone the language on the proposed five (5) year apprentice registration.

As a matter of procedure, all legislative ideas approved by the Boards will be processed through the Division's DAG, Patrick Grace.

◆ **Administrator's Report**

Permits – A letter was sent to all industry contractors clarifying the new permit fee process. The effective date was July 1, 2008. Upon receiving ample time to adjust, the Division has begun to enforce the rule.

Iowa Floods – In June, Homeland Security contacted DBS for assistance with the floods in Iowa. The Division sent two safety advisors to aid in identifying inhabitable residential and commercial properties.

The Division received a development plan, created by Kansas City, on how to respond after a destructive force damages a community. The Division to examine and possibly incorporate the plan; benefitting the citizens of Idaho should a natural disaster occur.

Budget - Ten new fuel efficient vehicles have been ordered. The Agency estimates saving 13,000-14,000 gallons of fuel with the hybrid vehicles procured last year.

Economy – After traveling through 11 local jurisdictions throughout the Eastern part of the State and meeting with city and county officials, it is anticipated it will be a couple of years before the construction industry sees any significant financial turn-around. Three highlighted areas are: Bonneville County (Ariva), Montpelier (modular plant) and several proposed new companies in Bannock County.

CAS – The Division is in the testing phase. It is projected the first part of 2009 the industry to utilize CAS. The Division will sponsor training sessions throughout the State.

◆ **Apprentice Ratio in Modular Facilities**

Concerns were addressed as to why the apprentice ratio is not regulated in modular facilities and those apprentices are not required to abide by the state laws.

ACTION: The Bureau to research the apprentice ratio in the modular facilities; bringing their finds to the October 16, 2008 Board meeting.

MOTION: Mark LaBolle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:37 p.m. Troy Mortensen seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

TOM BROWN, CHAIRMAN
ELECTRICAL BOARD

C. KELLY PEARCE, ADMINISTRATOR
DIVISION OF BUILDING SAFETY

DATE

DATE